By and large, the problems offered in other sections of WORD WAYS are intended for seasoned veterans of the word wars. In this section, we are presenting much easier puzzles and quizzes, to encourage beginners on the road to word wisdom.

Our title is a Latin one. SIMPLICISSIMI means "the simplest ones." Not only is that title appropriate to the material that follows, but it is also a word interesting for its own sake. It is a so-called "i-invariant": a fairly long word using only the vowel I, but using it plentifully. There seems to be only one word in English fully a match for it—the word PRIMITIVISTIC, also spelled with I.

Because the teasers that follow are relatively easy, we have included the solutions to them in this issue of WORD WAYS, starting on page 62.
Naturally, all sorts of other words can be traced in the sample: PER, POSH, CAD, ASH, etc.

You may never use the same letter square more than once for one word. Thus, in the sample, you cannot spell the word HASH, because there is only one letter H.

In the word chess diagram that is given below, 25 letters of the alphabet are arranged in a 5 x 5 square (to simplify the problem, Q has been omitted). How many words of three or more letters can you trace out in this diagram? The designer of the puzzle found 31 English words, ruling out slang, proper names, obsolete and foreign words, abbreviations, plurals, and past tenses.

If you are competitive in spirit, you may score yourself as follows:

- 25 or more words—remarkable
- 15-24 words—excellent
- 10-14 words—good
- 5-9 words—fair

**Capital Quiz**

Every country has a capital. The capital of the United States is Washington, that of Japan is Tokyo, and so forth. Everyone knows that.

A little less obvious is the fact that quite a few countries have, or have had, two or even three capitals. The ultimate extreme along that line was reached by the former French Morocco, blessed with four different cities serving as capitals: RABAT, MEKNES, FES, and MARRAKESH.

How good are you at geography? To find out, we have listed 20 cities below, each one a capital. We have told you what kind of capital each city is (legislative, religious, etc.). Your job is to identify the country of which each city is a capital, and to name other cities in the same country that are also capitals.

Generally, the same country has only one other capital. However, if the city named below is marked with an asterisk, there are two other cities that you should try to identify.

If you want to attempt a perfect job, also tell us what kind of capital(s) the other city or cities are.

**WORD WAYS**
example: PER, POSH, PUNCH for one word. There is only one of the alphabet are omitted). How this diagram? The proper names, tenses, follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Kind of Capital</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THE HAGUE</td>
<td>De facto capital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUCRE</td>
<td>Constitutional capital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIENTIANE</td>
<td>Administrative capital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BENGASI or BENGHAZI</td>
<td>Joint capital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISLAMABAD*</td>
<td>Projected or future capital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAN SEBASTIAN</td>
<td>Summer capital for royalty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MECCA</td>
<td>Religious capital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEKING or PEIPING</td>
<td>Present capital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANKARA</td>
<td>Modern capital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PYONGYANG</td>
<td>Northern capital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUEZON CITY*</td>
<td>Present official capital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRASILIA</td>
<td>New capital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAIZ or TA'IZZ</td>
<td>Seat of government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLOEMFONTEIN*</td>
<td>Judicial capital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAIPEI or TAIPEH</td>
<td>Provisional capital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMMAN</td>
<td>Political capital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BONN</td>
<td>Western capital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEL AVIV*</td>
<td>First capital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAIGON</td>
<td>Southern capital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUNAKHA</td>
<td>Winter capital</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Arcane Acrostics

A series of verses in which the first, last, or other particular letters of the successive lines, read in order, form a word or phrase, is called an acrostic poem. The following poem, dedicated to the moon, is an example of an acrostic. The first letters of the successive lines, read in order, spell the word that is also the title of the poem.

Crescent

by

Walter Shedlofsky
St. Louis, Missouri

Crepuscular at times, yet ever nascent,
Rhyme and prose, more banal than effervescent,
Exalt your glamour, strange and opalescent.
Senescent, yet constantly evanescent.
Crowned with brilliant star halos efflorescent,
Eerily glimpsed through raindrops iridescent.
Night is your stage, for with dawn deliquescent,
Truantly you hide until your next ascent.

In addition to featuring its title as an initial acrostic, the foregoing poem displays word artistry in using the same rather unusual rhyme for each line.

For your puzzlement, we present a somewhat more complex acrostic poem by the same author. Once again, the initial letters of the successive lines spell the
title of the poem. In addition, however, a second and a third acrostic are concealed further in the text of the poem. One of them identifies the murderer, the other names the weapon he used. Can you find both of the hidden acrostics?

_Suspense_
_by Walter Shedlofsky_
_St. Louis, Missouri_

Scene: wild slayer slashes beauty with strange blade.
Upshot: old erratic sergeant assigned case.
Stray cast: restless playboy, Moslem sheik, flight ace.
Prime clue: groans heard by neighbor at 1:00 that night.
Exact time: elegant sheik and ace in fight.
Nasty fact: arthritis crippled playboy's hand.
Sad ending: negatives showed her fourth brand.
Enigma why? taunted lover on downgrade.

Word Squares
_Temple G. Porter_
_Swamp, Massachusetts_

If you like tic-tac-toe, chess, and other games for the idle, you'll like WORD SQUARES. We could have called them WORD HIPS, but that wouldn't have been as descriptive, albeit ambiguous, as WORD SQUARES.

To complete a word square, you take a 5 x 5 box, such as that in Figure 1, and fill it in so that the square is occupied by five words reading both horizontally and vertically, as shown in Figure 2:

![Figure 1](image1)

![Figure 2](image2)

Reproduced below are another four word squares, with the perimeters filled in. Can you complete the interiors? Solutions differing from those shown in the back of this issue are possible, and you may come up with such solutions. As long as your words read the same down as across, your solutions will be just as valid as ours.

**WORD WAYS**

An Elemental Problem

Once upon a time, so the word ARGUMENT went into the elements they presented below into the elements they were looking for the element silver.

Ever since then, a word might also be converted into a word expedit of jumbling that is:

Presented below are the elements they Chemistry lessons later contained:

1. DALE
2. NONE
3. GROAN
4. ADORN
5. LIVERS
6. MISCE
7. I RUMBA!
An Elemental Problem

Once upon a time, someone made the pleasing discovery that the letters of the word ARGUMENT could be rearranged to form ARGENTUM, another name for the element silver.

Ever since then, a search has been going on for other words and phrases that might also be converted into names of chemical elements through the simple expedient of jumbling their letters.

Presented below are 20 such terms. How many of them can you transform into the elements they disguise? To put it another way, have you been doing your chemistry lessons lately?

1. DALE  8. INHUMER  15. RENOTING
2. NONE  9. FARM OWL  16. SANITATE
3. GROAN 10. MID-HOUR  17. UNMOBILE
4. ADORN 11. RACINES  18. A TIN LUMP
5. LIVERS 12. CURRY ME!  19. MARINE GUM
6. MISCE  13. LINE FOUR  20. GAS-IMMUNE
7. I RUMBA!  14. DOG HENRY!

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